

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Sections  
5 2-3.191, 27-20.3, and 27-21 and by adding Section 27-20.05 as  
6 follows:

7 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.191)

8 Sec. 2-3.191. State Education Equity Committee.

9 (a) The General Assembly finds that this State has an  
10 urgent and collective responsibility to achieve educational  
11 equity by ensuring that all policies, programs, and practices  
12 affirm the strengths that each and every child brings with  
13 diverse backgrounds and life experiences and by delivering the  
14 comprehensive support, programs, and educational opportunities  
15 children need to succeed.

16 (b) The State Education Equity Committee is created within  
17 the State Board of Education to strive toward ensuring equity  
18 in education for all children from birth through grade 12.

19 (c) The Committee shall consist of the State  
20 Superintendent of Education or the State Superintendent's  
21 designee, who shall serve as chairperson, and one member from  
22 each of the following organizations appointed by the State  
23 Superintendent:

1           (1) At least 2 educators who each represent a  
2 different statewide professional teachers' organization.

3           (2) A professional teachers' organization located in a  
4 city having a population exceeding 500,000.

5           (3) A statewide association representing school  
6 administrators.

7           (4) A statewide association representing regional  
8 superintendents of schools.

9           (5) A statewide association representing school board  
10 members.

11           (6) A statewide association representing school  
12 principals.

13           (7) A school district serving a community with a  
14 population of 500,000 or more.

15           (8) A parent-led organization.

16           (9) A student-led organization.

17           (10) One community organization that works to foster  
18 safe and healthy environments through advocacy for  
19 immigrant families and ensuring equitable opportunities  
20 for educational advancement and economic development.

21           (11) An organization that works for economic,  
22 educational, and social progress for African Americans and  
23 promotes strong sustainable communities through advocacy,  
24 collaboration, and innovation.

25           (12) One statewide organization whose focus is to  
26 narrow or close the achievement gap between students of

1 color and their peers.

2 (13) An organization that advocates for healthier  
3 school environments in this State.

4 (14) One statewide organization that advocates for  
5 partnerships among schools, families, and the community,  
6 provides access to support, and removes barriers to  
7 learning and development, using schools as hubs.

8 (15) One organization that advocates for the health  
9 and safety of Illinois youth and families by providing  
10 capacity building services.

11 (16) An organization dedicated to advocating for  
12 public policies to prevent homelessness.

13 (17) Other appropriate State agencies as determined by  
14 the State Superintendent.

15 (18) An organization that works for economic,  
16 educational, and social progress for Native Americans and  
17 promotes strong sustainable communities through advocacy,  
18 collaboration, and innovation.

19 Members appointed to the Committee must reflect, as much  
20 as possible, the racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of  
21 this State.

22 (d) Members appointed by the State Superintendent shall  
23 serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for  
24 reasonable and necessary expenses, including travel, from  
25 funds appropriated to the State Board of Education for that  
26 purpose, subject to the rules of the appropriate travel

1 control board.

2 (e) The Committee shall meet at the call of the  
3 chairperson, but shall meet no less than 3 times a year.

4 (f) The Committee shall recognize that, while progress has  
5 been made, much remains to be done to address systemic  
6 inequities and ensure each and every child is equipped to  
7 reach the child's fullest potential and shall:

8 (1) guide its work through the principles of equity,  
9 equality, collaboration, and community;

10 (2) focus its work around the overarching goals of  
11 student learning, learning conditions, and elevating  
12 educators, all underpinned by equity;

13 (3) identify evidence-based practices or policies  
14 around these goals to build on this State's progress of  
15 ensuring educational equity for all its students in all  
16 aspects of birth through grade 12 education; and

17 (4) seek input and feedback on identified  
18 evidence-based practices or policies from stakeholders,  
19 including, but not limited to, parents, students, and  
20 educators that reflect the rich diversity of Illinois  
21 students.

22 (g) The Committee shall submit its recommendations to the  
23 General Assembly and the State Board of Education no later  
24 than January 31, 2022. By no later than December 15, 2023 and  
25 each year thereafter, the Committee shall report to the  
26 General Assembly and the State Board of Education about the

1 additional progress that has been made to achieve educational  
2 equity.

3 (h) As part of the report required under subsection (g),  
4 by no later than December 15, 2024, the Committee shall  
5 provide recommendations that may assist the State Board of  
6 Education in identifying diverse subject matter experts to  
7 help inform policy through task forces, committees, and  
8 commissions the State Board oversees.

9 (i) On and after January 31, 2025, subsection (h) is  
10 inoperative.

11 (Source: P.A. 102-458, eff. 8-20-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22.)

12 (105 ILCS 5/27-20.05 new)

13 Sec. 27-20.05. Native American history study.

14 (a) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, every public  
15 elementary school and high school social studies course  
16 pertaining to American history or government shall include in  
17 its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of  
18 the Native American experience and Native American history  
19 within the Midwest and this State since time immemorial. These  
20 events shall include the contributions of Native Americans in  
21 government and the arts, humanities, and sciences, as well as  
22 the contributions of Native Americans to the economic,  
23 cultural, social, and political development of their own  
24 nations and of the United States. The unit of instruction must  
25 describe large urban Native American populations in this

1 State, including the history and experiences of contemporary  
2 Native Americans living in this State. Instruction in grades 6  
3 through 12 shall include the study of the genocide of and  
4 discrimination against Native Americans, as well as tribal  
5 sovereignty, treaties made between tribal nations and the  
6 United States, and the circumstances around forced Native  
7 American relocation. This unit of instruction may be  
8 integrated as part of the unit of instruction required under  
9 Section 27-20.03 or 27-21 of this Code.

10 (b) The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and  
11 make available to all school boards instructional materials  
12 and professional development opportunities that may be used as  
13 guidelines for development of a unit of instruction under this  
14 Section. However, each school board shall itself determine the  
15 minimum amount of instructional time that qualifies as a unit  
16 of instruction satisfying the requirements of this Section.

17 (c) The regional superintendent of schools shall monitor a  
18 school district's compliance with this Section's curricular  
19 requirements during the regional superintendent's annual  
20 compliance visit and make recommendations for improvement,  
21 including professional development.

22 (105 ILCS 5/27-20.3) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-20.3)

23 Sec. 27-20.3. Holocaust and Genocide Study.

24 (a) Every public elementary school and high school shall  
25 include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the

1 events of the Nazi atrocities of 1933 to 1945. This period in  
2 world history is known as the Holocaust, during which  
3 6,000,000 Jews and millions of non-Jews were exterminated. One  
4 of the universal lessons of the Holocaust is that national,  
5 ethnic, racial, or religious hatred can overtake any nation or  
6 society, leading to calamitous consequences. To reinforce that  
7 lesson, such curriculum shall include an additional unit of  
8 instruction studying other acts of genocide across the globe.  
9 This unit shall include, but not be limited to, the Native  
10 American genocide in North America, the Armenian Genocide, the  
11 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in  
12 Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan. The studying of this  
13 material is a reaffirmation of the commitment of free peoples  
14 from all nations to never again permit the occurrence of  
15 another Holocaust and a recognition that crimes of genocide  
16 continue to be perpetrated across the globe as they have been  
17 in the past and to deter indifference to crimes against  
18 humanity and human suffering wherever they may occur.

19 (b) The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and  
20 make available to all school boards instructional materials  
21 which may be used as guidelines for development of a unit of  
22 instruction under this Section; provided, however, that each  
23 school board shall itself determine the minimum amount of  
24 instruction time which shall qualify as a unit of instruction  
25 satisfying the requirements of this Section.

26 Instructional materials that include the addition of

1 content related to the Native American genocide in North  
2 America shall be prepared and made available to all school  
3 boards on the State Board of Education's Internet website no  
4 later than January 1, 2025.

5 Instructional materials related to the Native American  
6 genocide in North America shall be developed in consultation  
7 with members of the Chicago American Indian Community  
8 Collaborative who are members of a federally recognized tribe,  
9 are documented descendants of Indigenous communities, or are  
10 other persons recognized as contributing community members by  
11 the Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative and who  
12 currently reside in this State or their designees.

13 (Source: P.A. 94-478, eff. 8-5-05.)

14 (105 ILCS 5/27-21) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-21)

15 Sec. 27-21. History of United States.

16 (a) History of the United States shall be taught in all  
17 public schools and in all other educational institutions in  
18 this State supported or maintained, in whole or in part, by  
19 public funds.

20 The teaching of history shall have as one of its  
21 objectives the imparting to pupils of a comprehensive idea of  
22 our democratic form of government and the principles for which  
23 our government stands as regards other nations, including the  
24 studying of the place of our government in world-wide  
25 movements and the leaders thereof, with particular stress upon



1 the basic principles and ideals of our representative form of  
2 government.

3 The teaching of history shall include a study of the role  
4 and contributions of African Americans and other ethnic  
5 groups, including, but not restricted to, Native Americans,  
6 Polish, Lithuanian, German, Hungarian, Irish, Bohemian,  
7 Russian, Albanian, Italian, Czech, Slovak, French, Scots,  
8 Hispanics, Asian Americans, etc., in the history of this  
9 country and this State. To reinforce the study of the role and  
10 contributions of Hispanics, such curriculum shall include the  
11 study of the events related to the forceful removal and  
12 illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S. citizens during  
13 the Great Depression.

14 The teaching of history shall also include teaching about  
15 Native American nations' sovereignty and self-determination,  
16 both historically and in the present day, with a focus on urban  
17 Native Americans.

18 In public schools only, the teaching of history shall  
19 include a study of the roles and contributions of lesbian,  
20 gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the history of this  
21 country and this State.

22 The teaching of history also shall include a study of the  
23 role of labor unions and their interaction with government in  
24 achieving the goals of a mixed free enterprise system.

25 Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the teaching of  
26 history must also include instruction on the history of

1 Illinois.

2 The teaching of history shall include the contributions  
3 made to society by Americans of different faith practices,  
4 including, but not limited to, Native Americans, Muslim  
5 Americans, Jewish Americans, Christian Americans, Hindu  
6 Americans, Sikh Americans, Buddhist Americans, and any other  
7 collective community of faith that has shaped America.

8 (b) No pupils shall be graduated from the eighth grade of  
9 any public school unless the pupils have ~~he or she has~~ received  
10 ~~such~~ instruction in the history of the United States as  
11 provided in this Section and give ~~gives~~ evidence of having a  
12 comprehensive knowledge thereof, which may be administered  
13 remotely.

14 (c) The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and  
15 make available to all school boards instructional materials  
16 that may be used as guidelines for the development of  
17 instruction under this Section; however, each school board  
18 shall itself determine the minimum amount of instructional  
19 time required for satisfying the requirements of this Section.

20 Instructional materials that include the addition of  
21 content related to Native Americans shall be prepared and made  
22 available to all school boards on the State Board of  
23 Education's Internet website no later than January 1, 2025.

24 Instructional materials related to Native Americans shall  
25 be developed in consultation with members of the Chicago  
26 American Indian Community Collaborative who are members of a

1 federally recognized tribe, are documented descendants of  
2 Indigenous communities, or are other persons recognized as  
3 contributing community members by the Chicago American Indian  
4 Community Collaborative and who currently reside in this  
5 State.

6 (Source: P.A. 101-227, eff. 7-1-20; 101-341, eff. 1-1-20;  
7 101-643, eff. 6-18-20; 102-411, eff. 1-1-22.)

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
9 becoming law.